

Meals on Wheels for



What the bill does

- Establishes a three year pilot grant program to deliver summer meals to children who qualify for the summer meals program or free/reduced price breakfast, and live in rural or hard to reach areas, who are unable to travel to congregate feeding sites because of distance or concerns for safety.

Filling in the gaps

- Many areas throughout the country do not have access to a summer meal site in their county and many other areas are underserved.
- For example, in Illinois, [35 counties](#) do not have a summer meal site and others have one meal site for the entire county.

Funding & Program Requirements

- Authorizes \$5 million annually over the three year pilot for the USDA to provide states with grant funding, to be matched by states, to create and carry out a meal delivery program.
 - States would be required to submit plans identifying the service institutions they would partner with, and those institutions would be required to provide children with at least 5 delivered meals per week.
 - Selected grantees may use funding to provide children with healthy meals during with extended school breaks (consisting of 5+ days, like spring or winter break), or school closures like those caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - Additionally, the bill has provisions to ensure and prioritize the safety of children, safe handling of food, and allows priority for those service institutions that would provide educational enrichment opportunities when they deliver meals to children.

Reporting Requirements

- Specifically, the bill also calls for a study on the impact of such grants on the reduction of hunger and access to meals for children that live in these rural or hard-to-reach areas and low-income areas during summer months.
- Also, it requires recommendations on alternative services not offered by a grant recipient that would be appropriate for providing summer meals to ensure that the pilot helps to optimize summer meals programs in the future.